



State of Tennessee  
Department of State  
**Tennessee State Library and Archives**  
403 Seventh Avenue North  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0312

**GOVERNOR SAMUEL HOUSTON  
1827-1829**

**(GP 8)**

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## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The file of the papers of Governor Samuel Houston is as devoid of leads on his unexplained resignation from the governorship of Tennessee, and from marriage, as the otherwise voluminous supply of writings on this colorful character.

The "term" of Governor Sam Houston lasted a little less than nineteen months. It is not logical, therefore, to expect that any momentous developments would have occurred within this short time. However, so rapid was our national development and so apparently vigorous was the incumbent Governor, that one is constrained to wonder what a full-term would have brought forth.

With the other developments in our national character, it is to be noted that the crimes which were engaging the attention of the law-abiding were becoming more sophisticated; there is record of a counterfeiting or of a check-raising. At the same time, one notes that corporal punishment is continuing to phase out, usually through exercise of the pardoning power of the Governor.

Also to be noticed is the occurrence of the phrase "States' Rights;" coincidentally, the first use of it seems to come from South Carolina.

Another symbol of growth is the mention of a project for the creation of a public library; as far it is known, this subject is brought up for the first time.

There is record of the duel in which Houston participated in Kentucky, in the form of a bill of indictment by the Commonwealth's Attorney of Simpson County, Kentucky; against one Samuel Houston, "late of said county", for shooting and wounding one William White. He was released on \$2,000.00 bail, which he probably forfeited.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

### **Governor Sam Houston**

- 1793 Born March 2<sup>nd</sup>, in Rockbridge County, Virginia.
- 1807 His widowed mother and her nine children moved to the vicinity of Maryville, Tennessee (Blount County).
- 1812 Served briefly as a school teacher in Blount County.
- 1813 Enlisted in Army
- 1814 Served with Gen. Andrew Jackson in the Creek Campaign; seriously wounded at Battle of Horseshoe Bend.
- 1818 Resigned his Army commission, headed back to Tennessee
- 1821 Elected Major General in State Militia
- 1823 Elected to Congress for first time
- 1827 Elected Governor of the State of Tennessee
- 1829 Separated from his first wife, Elisha Allen and resigned as Governor on April 16<sup>th</sup>. Exiled himself to live among the Cherokee Nation.
- 1833 Moved to Texas
- 1836 Named commander-in-chief of the Army of the Republic of Texas. Later, on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, elected President of the Republic of Texas
- 1840 Married Margaret Lea of Alabama.
- 1846 Elected as United States Senator for Texas; served for fourteen years.
- 1860 Elected as seventh Governor of the State of Texas.
- 1861 Ousted from office as Governor for refusing to swear allegiance to the Confederate nation.
- 1863 Died July 25<sup>th</sup> at Huntsville, Texas.